

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

3151-01

What is claimed is:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method of operating an internal combustion engine, comprising:  
~~introducing an antioxidant composition comprising~~  
supplying to said engine a fuel containing an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of:
  - (A) a sterically hindered phenol;
  - (B) an alkylene or alkylidene coupled sterically hindered phenol oligomer;
  - (C) a secondary aromatic amine;
  - (D) a reaction product of a hydrocarbyl-substituted hydroxy-containing aromatic compound, an aldehyde, and a carboxyl-substituted phenol; ~~or~~ and
  - (E) a mixture thereof ~~into a combustion chamber of the engine during the operation of the engine~~wherein the antioxidant composition is essentially free of sulfur and phosphorus.
2. *(Canceled)*
3. *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant composition is introduced into the combustion chamber by injection from a dosing system or as a component of a fuel composition.
4. *(Original)* The method of claim 3 wherein the antioxidant composition is present in the fuel composition at 0.1 to 40,000 ppm by weight.

5.     *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant composition (A) is a phenol having two or more alkyl substituents that contain 1 to 24 carbon atoms and that occupy the 2-position and 6-position of the phenolic ring.
6.     *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant composition (B) is a methylene coupled phenol oligomer containing two or more phenolic rings wherein each phenolic ring is occupied at the 2-, 4- and 6-positions by an alkyl or arylalkyl group.
7.     *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant composition (C) is a diarylamine containing one or more alkyl substituents wherein each substituent contains up to 16 carbon atoms.
8.     *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant composition (D) is the reaction product of an alkylphenol, formaldehyde, and salicylic acid.
9.     *(Original)* The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant further comprises one or more fuel additives.
10.    *(Original)* A method of improving the performance of a lubricating oil of an internal combustion engine by operating the engine according to the method of claim 1.
11.    *(Original)* The method of claim 10 wherein the engine is a compression-ignited engine or spark-ignited direct injection engine having an exhaust gas recirculation system.
12.    *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 10 wherein the engine is a compression-ignited or spark-ignited engine having an exhaust treatment ~~device~~, device, and the lubricating oil has at least one of the properties selected

from the group consisting of a phosphorus content below 0.1% by weight, a sulfur content below 0.5% by weight, and a sulfated ash content below 1.5% by weight.

13.     *(Original)* The method of claim 10 wherein the engine is installed on a motor vehicle and has a recommended drain interval for the lubricating oil of the engine of greater than 6,000 miles.

14.     *(Original)* The method of claim 10 wherein the engine is a stationary engine having a recommended drain interval for the lubricating oil of the engine of greater than 150 operational hours.

15.     *(Original)* The method of claim 10 wherein the engine is a compression-ignited or spark-ignited engine having an exhaust treatment device, and a fuel of a fuel composition used to fuel the engine has a sulfur content below 80 ppm by weight.